

## Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-07 ERDA-05 NRC-05  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /045 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5216  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18156

DEPT PASS USGS AND BUREAU OF MINES

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EMIN TH  
SUBJECT: REPORT OF MAJOR URANIUM DISCOVERY

1. MR GRIFFIN V LLOYD, CANADIAN GEOLOGIST EMPLOYED BY CRUX INTERNATIONAL OF DENVER, COLORADO, INFORMED EMBASSY AUG 16 HE HAS FILED WRITTEN REQUEST WITH DEPT OF MINERAL RESOURCES (DMR) FOR PERMISSION TO EXPLORE FURTHER, AND EVENTUALLY EXPOLIT, MAJOR URANIUM DEPOSIT EAST OF KHON KAEN CITY, IN NORTHEAST THAILAND. MR LLOYD BELIEVES DEPOSIT MAY BE AS RICH AS LARGEST OF US DEPOSITS. HE ADDED THAT COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES OF COPPER AND VANADIUM ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE URANIUM ORE.

2. MR LLOYD SAID CRUX INTERNATIONAL'S PARENT COMPANY, SOUTHERN CROSS CORP., IS TRYING TO FORM PARTNERSHIP WITH KERR-MCGEE CORP TO EXPLOIT KHON KAEN DEPOSIT. IMMEDIATE PLANS OF CRUX INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVES, WHO PLAN TO VISIT THAILAND IN SEPT. ACCORDING MR LLOYD, INCLUDE EXPLORATION BUDGET OF ABOUT \$300,000 ANNUALLY FOR NEXT THREE YEARS. AT END OF THAT PERIOD, MR LLOYD  
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BELIEVES, SIZE AND VALUE OF DEPOSIT WILL HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

3. INTERESTING ASPECT OF MR LLOYD'S OPERATIONS IS THAT HE HAS BEEN EXPLORING IN NORTHEAST FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS--AT TIMES WITH 25 MEN IN FIELD PARTY--WITHOUT CUSTOMARY EXPLORATION PERMIT REQUIRED BY DMR. HE SAID

CRUX INTERNATIONAL CHOSE TO CARRY OUT EXPLORATION ON WHAT IS ILLEGAL BASIS UNDER THAI MINING LAW FOR FEAR COMPETITORS WOULD LEARN FIRM WAS PROSPECTING FOR URANIUM. HAVING REACHED CONCLUSION THAT IMPORTANT DISCOVERY HAS BEEN MADE, FIRM DECIDED TO INFORM DMR OF PROSPECTS FOR ITS OPERATIONS AND TO TRY TO REGULARIZE ITS STATUS, MR LLOYD SAID. HE ADDED THAT HE HAS APPLIED FOR LICENSES TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL EXPLORATION.

4. IN LETTER TO DMR, ACCORDING MR LLOYD, HE URGED THAT RTG ADOPT REGULATIONS, INCLUDING ROYALTY RATES, FOR MINING OF URANIUM AND COPPER, SINCE LAW IS SILENT ON THESE MINERALS. HE ADDED THAT INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THAI OFFICIALS OVER LAST TWO YEARS HAVE CONVINCED HIM THAT RTG WILL WISH TO HAVE EQUITY INTEREST IN ANY FIRM ESTABLISHED TO MINE URANIUM.

5. MR LLOYD ASKED THAT FOREGOING INFORMATION BE TREATED "VERY CONFIDENTIALLY", AND EMBOFF AGREED TO DO SO. AT EMBOFF'S REQUEST, MR LLOYD AGREED TO REMAIN IN TOUCH.

6. MR LLOYD DECLINED TO PINPOINT LOCATION OF DEPOSIT, BUT SAID IT IS NEAR SITE WHERE DMR GEOLOGISTS HAVE PROSPECTED FOR URANIUM. DR D R SHAW, USGS, DENVER, HAS PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON DMR'S WORK. ALSO A DR CAMERON  
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AND A SIGNOR MORANTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION HAVE ASSISTED DMR'S EFFORTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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